

THE PEOPLES INSTITUTE.

ITS OBJECTS AND AIMS EXPLAINED BY CHARLES SPRAGUE SMITH.

Charles Sprague Smith, chairman of the Committee for Organization of the People's Institute, told a Tribune reporter yesterday what has already been done with regard to its formation. This information has hitherto been withheld. It was known that several influential persons in the city were organizing a "People's Institute," but its scope and objects, and the names of those interested in it nothing had been ascertained.

From the information given by Mr. Smith it appears that the objects of the founders of the institute are varied and comprehensive. The idea originally was Mr. Smith's, and grew out of a desire to furnish the people systematic instruction in social science, history, literature and other subjects. At the same time it was felt that an institution which was absolutely undenominational and belonging to no political or social party might provide means by which those holding various opinions, following different occupations, could meet and discuss social and other questions. In this way the thoughtful elements of society might be united with the intelligent wage-earning class in searching for a solution to many problems now before us.

Mr. Smith spoke of his scheme to ex-Mayor Hewitt, Miss Grace H. Dodge, the Rev. Dr. W. R. Rainford, and others interested in social questions, and the idea was favorably regarded by them. A preliminary discussion was held at the house of the Rev. Dr. H. Heber Newton, and on May 25 a conference was held at ex-Mayor Hewitt's house, which arranged for a third meeting on June 19, and invited Samuel Gompers, Henry Weissman, Samuel B. Donnelly, George Tompkins, J. W. Ghent, Edward Thimme, and other labor representatives, to be present. Most of these attended the third meeting, and spoke in favor of the scheme. A suggested constitution was read and adopted. An advisory council was suggested as the most convenient ruling body for the Institute, and it was determined that this council should consist of thirty members.

A committee was appointed to prepare the articles of incorporation. These were sent to Albany, and the charter was granted on Friday last. The following are the incorporators: The Rev. Dr. Rainford, the Rev. Dr. H. Heber Newton, Miss Grace H. Dodge, Dr. E. R. Gould, Robert Fulton Cutting, Abram S. Howitt, George Tompkins, Edward Thimme and Charles Sprague Smith. The trustees are V. E. May, Howard Mansfield, R. Heber Newton, Edward D. Page, Charles B. Spahr, Charles Sprague Smith, J. G. Phelps Stokes, Edward Thimme and George Tompkins.

The constitution was mainly of a statement of the objects and principles. One paragraph, designed to make the Institute absolutely undenominational, reads as follows: "The People's Institute, while it may be used by any political, religious or social party or sect."

The list of members of the Advisory Council of Thirty is not complete, as some of those invited have not yet responded. The following, besides most of those already mentioned, are: Walter Hervey, Albert Shaw, James B. Reynolds, William E. Dodge, Jacob C. Schlesinger, F. R. A. Seligman, Charles W. Warner, Ernest H. Crosby, Jacob A. Rice, Miss L. B. Wald, Clarence Gordon and Oscar S. Straus.

It is expected that this council representative of all the classes interested in the Institute. The terms of office of six members will expire each year, and of those taking their places, two will be elected by the members, two by the associates, two by the associates and two by the members.

The work of the Institute will not begin until the autumn or winter. No attempt has at present been made to secure a permanent building, but it is intended to have one built at the earliest opportunity. The work will take as far as is now yet determined, but it is expected that the first series of lectures by the best American and English authorities on social, historical and literary subjects.

FOUND DEAD ON THE RAILROAD TRACKS. Frank Smith, twenty-eight years old, a warehouseman employed by Michael Daly, the contractor who is widening the New-York, New-Haven and Hartford suburban line at Pelham Manor, was found on the tracks yesterday morning badly mangled. The man lived at Woodside, and had been in the habit of riding to and from work on the freight trains. It is supposed he was riding in this manner and

fell beneath the wheels. A silver watch and some change was found in his pockets.

INVESTIGATING THE GRAMERCY CLUB.

THE SUCCESSOR TO THE NEWMARKET DESCRIBED BY STATE EXCISE AGENTS.

Edward D. O'Brien, the referee appointed to take testimony in regard to the alleged fake clubs, resumed the hearing yesterday in his office in the St. Paul Building. Policeman McGroarty, of the West One-hundred-thirtieth-station, told of two visits which he made to the Gramercy Club, which is conducted by Edward Cory, at Sixth-ave. and Thirtieth-st.

The first visit was with Royal Scott, of the State Department of Excise, at 2 o'clock on the morning of May 23. They bought two tickets, which entitled them to admission. McGroarty said, and they were told that they must join the club or produce a club membership card if they wanted drinks. McGroarty became a member by paying 25 cents and signing the name of John Alexander in a book. Drinks were served to himself and his companion. They took them at a table with two women. The witness said he was not introduced to the officers of the club, and did not notice any of them around the place. He also saw no billiard table or reading room. McGroarty told about another visit he made to the place in the evening, when dancing was going on and he again drank with women. His membership card again admitted him. McGroarty said he never received any bill of rights.

Edward Blair, a stenographer for the State Department of Excise, told of a visit he made to the club on the night of May 25. He was accompanied by his wife, and they were shown to their seats, and were told that the president of the club was a man named Baumgarder, and that he was the manager. None of the officers of the club were present. The witness was asked to produce the books of the club, but could not. Other excise agents also told of visits to the place, of them, Mr. N. Dero, who lives at Elmwood Park, and Mr. Rochester, and that the dancing did not strike him as being highly proper.

The investigation of the Gramercy Club will be resumed on Wednesday afternoon. Next Monday the Plymouth Club will be investigated.

AN ILLICIT STILL IN MERCER-ST.

REVENUE OFFICERS SAY THEY HAVE FOUND EVIDENCES OF THE MANUFACTURE OF WHISKEY IN AN OLD HOUSE.

Revenue officers discovered yesterday, at No. 125 Mercer-st., what they say is an illicit still. The place was desecrated when Agent Robert Williams, Jr., went there, but he found enough to convince him that the illicit manufacture of whiskey was being gone on there. Several tubs of mash were found, and so was a ten-gallon demijohn of raw whiskey, besides a number of empty whiskey barrels.

The building is a three-story and basement brick structure, and was evidently used years ago as a private dwelling. It has over the doors in large gilt letters, "101," covered over with dust. The steps which lead from the sidewalk to the front door are of marble, and they are badly worn from years of trampling. The basement is used as a second-hand packing-box establishment by a man named Goldberg, and the only other occupant of the building is on the top floor. This is used by A. Kinsler, for the manufacture of hats and caps. There is a room off the house, with a door leading into it from the main entrance, at the rear. Just at the end of the hall, and a step from the door leading to the yard, is the door to a small room. The room is about ten feet square, and, when it was broken open, it was found that a whiskey was carried on. The top was filled with debris, and was littered up from one end to the other.

The anonymous letter was received by the revenue officers yesterday to the effect that a moonshining business was being conducted in the building, and Agent Williams was sent to make an investigation. He found the still, and, along with the revenue men at work on the top floor. The still was the idea that the manufacture of whiskey was going on in the building. The agent had about concluded that this was not so, when the statement contained in the letter, when he descended the stairs, leading to the little room at the end of the hall. He found that it was locked and burst it open. The smell of gunpowder, smoke of mash and whiskey, and on the floor of the room, pieces of burned candles, which gave evidence that the buil-

ding of the moonshiners was carried on at night, after the district was deserted.

The agents of the building are Burnham & Van Vlier.

A visit was made to their office, and they said that they rented the room about four months ago to a man called himself Goldstein, to be used for storing furs.

The name of the old house, in which the illicit business was found, is known to the people in the neighborhood. The Sun Building, which is given to it because it is one of the few old buildings erected years ago as residences left standing at the present time.

It is believed that one of the men engaged in the manufacture of the whiskey got angry with the others of the gang for some reason and gave the place away.

ACCIDENT TO A FERRYBOAT.

A STEAM PIPE ON THE ST. LOUIS EXPLODES SCALDING THE ENGINEER.

Shortly before 9 o'clock last night as the ferry boat St. Louis, of the Pennsylvania Railroad company, was entering the slip at West Twenty-third-st., the steam pipe exploded, severely scalding the engineer and causing a small panic among the fifty passengers on board. The engineer is Charles Farrell, and he lives at No. 44 Harrison-st., Jersey City. He was taken to the New-York Hospital. The St. Louis is a new boat and has not been in commission long. She has given excellent satisfaction, and this is the first accident of any sort since she was placed on the route between Jersey City and West Twenty-third-st.

The pressure of the steam, as it was shut from the cylinder, as the engines were stopped, was too much for the steam pipe, and it parted with a crash. Clouds of escaping steam filled the engine room and soon spread through the boat. The passengers, who were informed that the president of the club was a man named Baumgarder, and that he was the manager, were somewhat frightened. The deckhands assured them that the accident to the boat will make it necessary to suspend her trips until repairs can be made, which will take several days.

ELOCUTIONISTS TO MEET.

Final preparations have been completed for the sixth annual convention of the National Association of Elocutionists, which opens to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. A special meeting of the local association was held last night at No. 25 West Pitti-st., and the various committees which will look after the out-of-town folks reported that every thing was in readiness.

The convention will last five days. At 10 o'clock on Monday morning a conference with the Music Teachers' National Association will be held in the Grand Central Palace. The first regular session of the convention will be held at the Hotel Side-Brighton, 125 West Fifty-first-st. All of the subsequent sessions will also be held there.

A CHILD RUN OVER WHILE AT PLAY.

Three-year-old Willie Kiln, of 50 West Forty-third-st., was run over by a beer bottling firm's wagon last night in front of his home. Both of his legs were broken and he was taken to Bellevue Hospital in a serious condition.

Willie lives with two older brothers and his parents. His father keeps a small grocery. The child was playing with his brothers last night in the street, against the wishes of his mother, who had given him permission to go only as far as the front gate, where he was knocked down by the wagon. The driver whipped the horse, and when they heard the crash they were somewhat frightened. The deckhands assured them that the accident to the boat will make it necessary to suspend her trips until repairs can be made, which will take several days.

EXCUSIONISTS TO MEET.

Many New-Yorkers will celebrate the anniversary of American independence by taking the special excursion which the Lehigh Valley Railroad offers to Mauch Chunk, Glen Onoko and Switchback on Monday, July 5. Special trains, with dining-cars attached, will convey the sightseers through one of the most charming regions traversed by the Lehigh Valley system.

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